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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been examined and are pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

Claim 9 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 1 - 24 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Renaud (US Patent 6,021,491, referred to as Renaud). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Renaud does not teach or disclose the present invention as recited in the subject claims.

For a prior art reference to anticipate, 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that "*each and every element* as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 USPQ2d 1949, 1950 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (*quoting Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)) (emphasis added).

The present invention relates to a system and method for providing security and facilitating the integrity of components or assemblies employed during runtime by application programs. (pg. 3, lines 2-4). A public key becomes a part of a manifest or namespace of an assembly file. (pg. 3, lines 21-22). A hash is computed over the entire contents of the assembly. (pg. 3, line 22). The hash is then encrypted using a private key match to the public key. (pg. 3, line 23). The encrypted or encoded code can then be stored at the end of the assembly file. (pg. 3, lines 23-24).

Independent claims 1, 12 and 19

Independent claim 1 of the subject invention relates to a method for ensuring a secured name space for an assembly used by application programs during runtime in which a key pair having a public key and a private key are provided. In particular,

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independent claim recites limitations of “providing the assembly with a manifest that contains the public key ... and encrypting the hash of the assembly with the private key” (emphasis added).

Next, independent claim 12 relates to a system for facilitating secured name spaces of assemblies employable by application programs at runtime. Independent claim 12 recites limitations of “a first component adapted to provide a manifest within an assembly with a public key; and a second component adapted to hash the contents of the assembly and encrypt the hash with a private key matching the public key.” (emphasis added).

Finally, independent claim 19 relates to a system for facilitating a secured name space of an assembly employable by application programs at runtime. Independent claim 12 recites limitations of “means for inserting a public key in a manifest of an assembly ... means for encrypting the hash of the assembly with the private key.”

Applicants’ representative respectfully submits that Renaud fails to teach or suggest such claimed aspects of the subject invention. Renaud does not teach, disclose or suggest providing a manifest within an assembly with a public key, hashing the assembly, and encrypting the hash of the assembly with the private key as recited in independent claims 1, 12 and 19.

To the contrary, Renaud discloses a different method for ensuring the integrity of components. Renaud instead discloses a system that employs identifiers assigned to each data file within a signature file. (See Col. 5, lines 1-6.) The signed signature file and the associated data files are then sent to a receiving user who verifies the digital signature. (Col. 5, lines 11-13.) Once the digital signature has been verified, the identifiers within the signature file are compared to the identifiers within the data files. (Col. 5, lines 13-16.) If the identifier within a given data file matches the corresponding identifier in the signature file, then the data file is verified as being authentic. (Col. 5, lines 16-18.)

In view of at least the above, it is readily apparent that Renaud neither anticipates nor suggests the subject invention as recited in independent claims 1, 12 and 19 (and claims 2-8, 13-18, and, 20-24 which depend there from). Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

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Independent claim 9

Independent claim 9 is directed to a computer readable medium having at least one computer executable component employable by an application program at runtime. Independent claim 9 recites limitations of “an assembly including a manifest that contains a public key and a hash of the contents of the assembly encrypted by a private key, the private key and the public key forming a key pair, the encrypted hash being referenced to the assembly.” (emphasis added).

As discussed previously, Renaud does not teach, disclose or suggest providing a manifest within an assembly with a public key, hashing the assembly, and encrypting the hash of the assembly with the private key.

In view of at least the above, it is readily apparent that Renaud neither anticipates nor suggests the subject invention as recited in independent claim and 9 (and claims 10 and 11 which depend there from). Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 (Reference No. MSFTP118US).

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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